

indicative of great sensibility. It is continually contracting and dilating both laterally and longitudinally; bends quickly from side to side; twitches spasmodically; and occasionally contracts or constricts one part without altering the rest. The ejection of the effete water from it is continuous while the organ is protruded, and sufficiently forcible to make the current visible at the distance of upwards of an inch from the orifice. The *receiving* current however is intermittent. The siphon through which this latter passes is a short truncate column, the edge of which is set with about fifteen short incurved tentacles, separated from each other at their bases by more than their own diameters. This column, when withdrawn, first becomes oval, and then collapses; the sides coming into contact as the valves close over it.

I am not aware that any one has included the Cockles among the byssus-spinners. This little species however exercises the faculty freely. It crawls up the glass sides of my aquarium, or up a phial, six inches or more in a few hours, moving itself by several diverging threads of varying length; and frequently, when disturbed, hanging by one alone, after the others have been cast off. I watched the process of spinning, which did not differ from what I have observed in other byssiferous Conchifera. The tiny white foot was protruded, and pressed against the glass for a few seconds; during which a slit, with mobile fleshy lips, was opened in its upper edge, not reaching to the tip, but terminating at about two-thirds of its length from the base. When the foot was withdrawn, two threads were found attached to the glass by minute sucking buttons. All the time of the process I perceived that the terminal, ungrooved portion of the foot, which was pellucid, seemed to be permeated by a central canal through which a fluid was percolating. Such at least was the appearance.

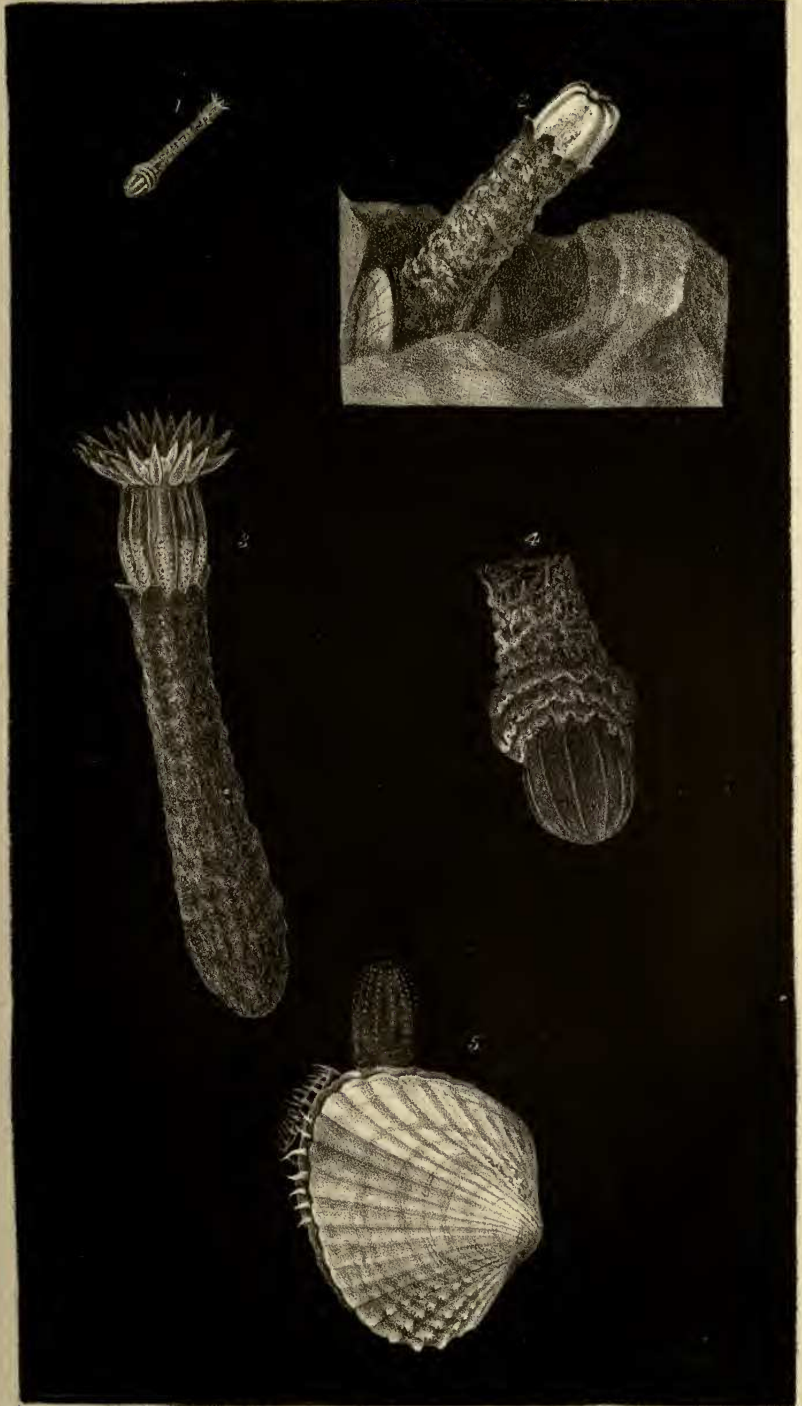
#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE IX.

*Fig. 5.* represents *Cardium exiguum*, with the siphons extended; magnified 5 diameters.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*An Introduction to Entomology, or Elements of the Natural History of Insects.* By WILLIAM KIRBY, M.A., F.R.S., F.L.S., and WILLIAM SPENCE, F.R.S., F.L.S. Seventh Edition. Sm. 8vo. London, Longmans, 1856.

AFTER the long period during which this work has occupied a high place in our entomological literature, almost all that remains for us to do is to announce to our readers the appearance of this "new and cheaper" edition of the 'Introduction to Entomology.' It comprises only the first two volumes of the original edition, containing what may be termed the popular portion of the book, and is in fact a reprint of



*P.H. Gosse, del. ad vivum.*

*J. Basire, lith.*

1-4. *Edwardsia carnea*.  
5. *Cardium exiguum*.